

the programming of flash memory to service other requests, and from having a status register with a write suspend status indicator.

Applicants respectfully submit that an erase operation is of a different character than a write operation. An erase operation typically involves the clearing of a large block of byte-wide memory locations of typically 64 kilobytes in size or more. An erase operation is typically done to initialize a memory device in preparation for writing of new or updated software into the newly erased block of memory locations, and is typically done when a system of which a memory device is a part is being reconfigured or put through a "setup" procedure, and is therefore, not done with great frequency. By contrast, a write operation (otherwise known as a programming operation) typically involves writing a value to a single, previously erased memory location of only a byte or word in size at any one time. A write operation is more typically done during the normal operation of a system of which the memory device is a part, to store a single updated value. Furthermore, prior art devices have incorporated write page buffers with faster access times that allow blocks of data to be temporarily queued, and then written all at once as a block into a row of memory locations of the memory device in far less time than would have been required to separately write each byte.

Applicant respectfully submits that given the differences in character between an erase operation and a write operation, the ability to suspend a write operation would not have been obvious at the time of invention.

In summary, Applicant submits that Claims 1-11, 20-25 and 30 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: _____

Maria McCormack Sobrino
Reg. No.: 31,639

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